

the veterans who served, their families, and a generation of Americans who lived through the war, have become a reality.

For Americans too young to remember the war and those born into this world in its aftermath, we have a special obligation this day to our parents, our grandparents, and to our children and future generations of Americans; 50 years from today most of those who remember the war will no longer be with us. It is, therefore, our responsibility to learn about what happened, and why it happened. We must ask those who fought in World War II what it was all about. We must remember the sufferings and the sacrifice, lest we become complacent with our freedom and suffer the consequences. We must all, every one of us, learn from our own history. Now, 50 years later, we must redouble our efforts to understand by talking to those who were there, those who remember it.

Americans who lived through this time and made the sacrifices, have one last talk. It is now your duty to pass on to those of us who weren't on the battlefields of Europe, or fighting on the "homefront" what happened during the war, so that we can learn from your experiences and pass along to future generations from the lesson's of the power of hatred and the price of protecting freedom for all.

This day I encourage parents and grandparents to take some time to talk to your children and grandchildren about World War II. You heroic veterans, tell them about the terrifying face of battle. Do not try to protect them from the brutal images that you have carried with you for all these years. Those of you who fought on the homefront, tell them about the hardships of home, the fears, the rationing; the friends, loved ones, and neighbors who never came home. Tell them why it all happened. Tell them about the price of acquiescence, isolation, and complacency.

You children and grandchildren, the future of the world, go to your grandparents and parents, call them on the phone, and ask them what it was like. And, take the time to read about it, and understand that they bought you the freedom that we now enjoy. Ask them how they felt when its future was uncertain. They remember, they will be glad to tell you. Listen hard, as if your life depends on it, because it does. And thank them for what they have done for you. Your job is never to forget the stories they have to tell you. Your job is to learn those lessons now so that your children will never again be called upon to smite such evil from the Earth.

This is also a day when all of us should turn, particularly to those veterans who live among us, and offer to them our humble and loving thanks. The great State of Idaho sent thousands of men off to war in Europe. Many, many of them never again laid their eyes on the mountains, deserts,

the forest, of Idaho, and lay buried in foreign graves. The veterans who still walk among us, might have suffered the same fate, if God had not chosen for them a different path. They risked their young lives for us, and suffered unimaginable horrors, so that we might not have to. The people of Idaho, the Nation, and the world, owe them everything.

Once in a while, as we live our busy lives with all of the challenges and trials that accompany them, we get the chance to stop and think about why we are able to live in this, the greatest Nation on Earth, in such freedom. Today is such a day. When envisioning the drama and pain of that conflict become difficult to imagine, draw upon those who lived through it, and learn from them.

And as we pay solemn tribute to the memories of the victims, and the survivors, the brave, and the victorious, let us be mindful of what led to this terrible war and thankful to those who fought it. Let us not forget the cost of freedom. And let us pray that God give us peace.

---

#### IN SUPPORT OF OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the last two decades, our Federal employees seem to be handy scapegoats for anything that goes wrong with Government. Whenever anyone on this floor mentions "those Federal bureaucrats," the syntax is generally pejorative and the reference, unflattering. The collective term "bureaucracy" is uttered in the same tone of revulsion reserved for former leaders of the "evil empire."

So it was refreshing to read an editorial in last Saturday's Times-Argus, which serves our State capital of Montpelier, VT.

The editorial simply reminds us that many victims of the Oklahoma City bomb explosion were "our friends, neighbors, brothers, and sisters who work for the Federal Government."

It seems to be a needful reminder in these times to be a little more respectful of the effort we get every day from millions of these men and women who work for us in every capacity, from guarding our national security to protecting our rights as citizens, from fighting crime to enforcing public health and safety standards, from exploring space to cleaning up our air and water here on Earth.

I ask that this editorial be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am not suggesting that criticism of Government operations is off limits. I am only asking that it be fair. The hundreds of Federal workers in my State of Vermont, are among the most dedicated and hard working men and women, in public or private life, in our country. Let us stop careless impugn-ing of their professional integrity.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Times Argus, May 6, 1995]

#### NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS

One of the results of the bombing attack on the federal building in Oklahoma City has been to put a human face on the entity known as the "federal government."

The people whose job it was to hand out Social Security checks, to enforce the laws about drugs and firearms, or to recruit people for the military were the neighbors, friends, brothers, sisters of the people of Oklahoma City.

In Vermont the federal government consists of Forest Service rangers and office workers, agriculture specialists, the Marine recruiter, the Social Security workers, the court personnel and others who live every day among us. These are our neighbors, friends, brothers, sisters.

And yet to hear the more virulent strains of attack emanating from anti-government extremists, these people are an exotic combination of Nazi, Communist and Genghis Khan.

A Colorado talk show host, responding to a caller who thought it was a good idea to shoot members of Congress, advocated "armed revolution."

A talk show host in Arizona suggested that Sarah Brady, the gun control advocate and wife of President Reagan's former press secretary, ought to be "put down" the way a veterinarian puts down a lame horse.

And, of course, the advice of Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy to shoot for the head when confronted by federal agents has become a famous example of the antigovernment rhetoric that has become so common.

Imagine for a moment that it was the Rev. Jesse Jackson or Ralph Nader or Patricia Ireland who was advising people to shoot government workers. Would conservatives hesitate for a moment in pointing out that such violent language may be less than conducive to the good of the public weal? Yet when President Clinton made the rather tentative suggestion that this language was really not so helpful, media incidiarists whined that they were being unfairly attacked.

Back in the 1960s anti-war dissenters, black power advocates, and other dissatisfied souls said a lot of stupid things that embarrassed even those who opposed the war or supported the civil rights struggle. Talk then of armed revolution was a naive delusion that was taken all too seriously by a few people, who sometimes ended up getting innocent people killed.

A lot of stupid things are being said again about our friends, neighbors, brothers, sisters who work for the federal government. In the West, there are soreheads with a grievance about the way the federal government manages public lands who are preventing federal workers from doing their jobs.

Everybody ought to remember that federal lands in the West do not belong only to the people who live there. They belong to all of us. We have people working for us to manage our lands. And people who don't like the way they are being managed have a democratic process to avail themselves of to change things.

It wasn't true in the 1960s, and it isn't true now: Our government is not a dictatorship, and armed revolution is not justifiable. The government in Oklahoma, in Boise or in Montpelier consists of our friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters, who, like the rest of us, are not always right about everything they do. But that's the great thing about democracy: We have peaceful methods for making

changes. We also have the duty to hold accountable those who break the law in an effort to attack our system.

#### VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today we are commemorating one of the proudest days in our history—Victory in Europe Day. World War II was no less than a triumph of good over evil. As President Harry Truman said, it was “a solemn and glorious hour.” Today we celebrate our victory over the Nazis—and we honor those who gave their lives in the most deadly conflict we have ever seen.

But most of all, we honor the Americans whose personal sacrifices gave us our greatest victory. In Maryland, thousands left factories, shops, and farms to fight on the front lines. People like my uncles Pete, Fred, Richard, and Florene. We also honor those on the homefront who kept the steel mills and shipyards going 24 hours a day to serve the war effort. That includes the women—the Rosie the Riveters who kept America going while our boys fought on the battlefields.

Eleanor Roosevelt said that those days were no ordinary time and that no ordinary solutions would be sufficient to defeat the enemies of America and Western civilization. No only was this no ordinary time, this was no ordinary generation.

I was a child during the War. I grew up seeing the heroism and patriotism of our soldiers—and seeing America united behind a common goal. I saw the sacrifices that individuals were willing to make for our country. That was the only America I knew.

Our veterans of World War II are each a symbol of the principles that have kept this country strong and free. When we think of our veterans, we think of everything that is good about this country—patriotism, courage, loyalty, duty and honor. Our responsibility is to live up to the standards they have set—to foster a new sense of citizenship and a new sense of duty.

That is why it troubles me that too often, young Americans do not learn enough about this special generation. It is our responsibility to honor our Nation's veterans—not just on V-E Day—but every day. Let us honor them in our homes, our schools, our churches, and our synagogues. And here in the U.S. Senate—when we set funding for veterans health care and pensions.

Every day that we live in freedom, we should remember that their triumph was democracy's greatest victory.

#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today marks the anniversary of one of the most important moments in modern Western history. Fifty years ago today, the Allied Powers accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany,

ending the most devastating war in world history. It was a great victory for freedom and for civilization.

The Allied victory was one of courage, valor and enormous sacrifice. Of the hundreds of major battles fought during the war, 15 resulted in casualties numbering no less than 5,000. From the beaches at Omaha to the great campaigns in Europe, American lives were sacrificed in the name of freedom.

The victory in Europe marked the end of unparalleled human horror and of catastrophic human loss on that continent. It signified the end of one of civilization's darkest moments. In essence, V-E Day marked the very rebirth of life in Europe's scarred, and war-torn landscape. But that rebirth did not come without a price.

We must never forget the sacrifices made to ensure our final victory. Of the 400,000 American soldiers who died in this horrible war, most lost their lives on the ground, in the trenches—literally clawing for victory inch by inch. The magnitude of the human price of this effort should command our deepest personal respect. We can never adequately thank our veterans for their supreme sacrifice.

Yet, through the images of fire and the remnants of ashes rises the hope that never again will we face such darkness. Never again will we face the prospect of such global sacrifice. Never again will the forces of freedom be asked to lay down their lives en masse in the name of peace and order.

Today marks the seminal moment in the American chapter of the War in Europe. It reminds us of our absolute resolve to maintain and preserve what is right and just. I join my colleagues in what is perhaps one of our most solemn moments in recognition of those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Mr. President, in honor of our fallen veterans, I rise in humble tribute.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, more than 3 years ago I began these daily reports to the Senate making a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of close of business the previous day.

As of the close of business Friday, April 28, the exact Federal debt stood at \$4,857,682,676,296.70, meaning that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,439.85 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

It's important to note, Mr. President, that the United States had an opportunity to begin controlling the Federal debt by implementing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Unfortunately, the Senate did not seize its first opportunity to control this debt—but there will be another chance during the 104th Congress.

#### A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE OF V-E DAY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this morning Samuel Pisar, a distinguished survivor of the Nazi death camps at Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Leonberg, and Dachau delivered the keynote address at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of V-E Day.

I was very moved by Mr. Pisar's expression of gratitude to his liberators, the U.S. Army. He recounted his first words to the GI in the American tank which rescued him, “I . . . summoned the few English words my mother used to sigh while dreaming of our deliverance, and yelled: ‘God Bless America!’”

That gratitude, in Mr. Pisar's words, “as intense as it was 50 years ago,” serves to remind us all of the role which America has and continues today to play in the world as a beacon of hope for oppressed people.

I ask unanimous consent that the excerpt of Samuel Pisar's address printed Sunday in the Washington Post be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 7, 1995]

ESCAPE FROM DACHAU: MY OWN, PRIVATE V-E DAY—FOR PRISONER B-1317, SALVATION WAS A U.S. ARMY TANK

(By Samuel Pisar)

World War II was coming to an end, yet we in the death camps knew nothing. What is happening in the world outside? Does anyone out there know what is happening here to us? Do they care? I was 15 years old, and I wanted to live.

The day the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy had been for us a day like any other. The toll in the gas chambers that day was higher than the losses suffered by the combined armies under Gen. Eisenhower's command on this, their longest day.

Judging by the brutality of our guards, we had every reason to believe that all of Europe was irrevocably lost, the Red Army smashed, England fighting alone, its back to the wall, against the seemingly invincible forces of darkness. And America? America was so unprepared, so divided, so far away. How could she be expected to reverse the collapse of civilization at this penultimate stage?

It took weeks for news of the U.S.-led invasion, beamed by the BBC from London, across occupied Europe, to slip into Auschwitz. There was also an amazing rumor that the Russians had mounted a powerful offensive on the Eastern front.

Incredible! So God had not turned His face from the world after all. Could a miracle still prevent the millenium of the Third Reich? Oh to hang on, to hang on a little longer!

We could guess from the Nazis' mounting nervousness that the weight of battle was changing decisively. With the ground shrinking under their feet, they began herding us deeper and deeper into Germany. I was shunted to Sachsenhausen near Berlin, then Leonberg near Stuttgart, then Dachau near Munich—camps normally reserved for political prisoners, common criminals and homosexuals.